

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON CHILD CARE**

**Indiana Legislative Services Agency
200 W. Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204**

October, 2009

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Chris Baker
Fiscal Analyst for the Committee

A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.

I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE

IC 12-17.2-3.3, establishing the Committee on Child Care, was enacted in P.L. 126-2007. IC 12-17.2-3.3-5 specifies the Committee responsibilities as follows:

Sec. 5. (a) The committee shall:

- (1) study the system of child care regulation; and
- (2) report and make recommendations concerning the system of child care regulation to the legislative council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6 not later than October 31 of each year.

(b) The committee's recommendations under subsection (a) must further the following child care regulation purposes:

- (1) To provide support for families in need of reliable, high quality child care.
- (2) To encourage and support high quality child care providers.
- (3) To allow for a variety of methods of child care provision and allow each family to determine the method preferred for the family's children.
- (4) To promote access to available and affordable child care by parents.
- (5) To encourage the state to access all available federal funds for child care.

(c) The committee's program of study must include consideration of the following:

- (1) The effect of child care and child care regulation on families.
- (2) Encouragement of high quality child care.
- (3) Issues related to the child care workforce, including job satisfaction, compensation, and turnover.
- (4) A review of child care models.
- (5) Ensuring the safety of children.
- (6) Any need for reorganization and refocusing of governmental agencies responsible for regulation of child care.
- (7) Parental rights.

II. INTRODUCTION AND REASONS FOR STUDY

Current Indiana law provides for licensure and registration of various types of child care providers, including child care homes, child care centers, and child care ministries. Licensure and registration are not required for certain child care homes. Other requirements apply to child care providers that receive payment for child care under the federal Child Care and Development Fund program administered under 45 CFR 98 and 45 CFR 99, regardless of licensure or registration.

The Committee was formed to further the statutory purpose of supporting quality child care and assisting families by improving access to and choice of child care providers.

Advisory committees concerning child care homes and child care centers were formed as a result of legislation passed in 2007. The purposes of the advisory committees are to advise the Division of Family Resources concerning child care regulation specific to the type of child care provider represented by the advisory committee, and to annually report to the Committee.

III. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM

The Committee met three times during the 2009 interim.

First Meeting

The first meeting of the Committee was held on September 15, 2009. The Committee considered testimony concerning the following:

- (1) Updates from the Bureau of Child Care (BCC), Division of Family Resources, Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) concerning:
 - (A) Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), including the waiting list, funding, eligibility requirements, effect of the American Recovery and Revitalization Act (ARRA) funding, and status of licensed child care providers.
 - (B) Implementation and evaluation of the Paths to Quality program (PTQ).
- (2) An update from the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) concerning the Sunny Start program.
- (3) A report from representatives of child care ministries concerning a child care ministry advisory committee.

Second Meeting

The second meeting of the Committee was held on October 5, 2009. The Committee

considered testimony concerning the following:

- (1) Information from the BCC concerning:
 - (A) a federal Centers for Disease Control communication tool related to H1N1; and
 - (B) the quantity of children, and various types of child care providers, located in each Indiana county.
- (2) Federal nutrition funding related to child care.
- (3) The needs of children with respect to nutrition and physical activity.
- (4) United Way of Central Indiana's "Success by Six" program.
- (5) Reports from the advisory committees on child care homes and child care centers.

Third Meeting

The third meeting of the Committee was held on October 21, 2009. The Committee considered the following:

- (1) Proposed legislation.
- (2) The final report of the Committee.

IV. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee heard testimony from representatives of the following groups:

- (1) Bureau of Child Care, Division of Family Resources, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration.
- (2) The Division of Family Resources child care advisory committees.
- (3) Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children.
- (4) Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral.
- (5) Nutrition and Physical Activity Program, Indiana State Department of Health.
- (6) School and Community Nutrition, Indiana Department of Education.
- (7) United Way of Central Indiana.
- (8) Other interested parties.

Child Care and Development Fund

The Committee heard updates concerning the federal Child Care and Development Fund voucher program, according to a recommendation from the Committee's 2008 Final Report. The members raised additional questions concerning location and licensure of child care providers. Further information concerning the questions was provided.

Paths to Quality

The Committee heard testimony and received written information concerning the PTQ. The members raised additional questions concerning availability of child care providers participating in PTQ, federal funding related to nutrition needs of children in child care, and funding assistance for furtherance of child care providers' ability to comply with the PTQ requirements. Additional information concerning those questions was provided.

Sunny Start

The Committee received an update concerning funding for, and availability of, information to the public through the Sunny Start program. Printed Sunny Start materials were provided to the members.

Success by Six

The Committee heard testimony concerning the Success by Six program of the United Way of Central Indiana, including information regarding specific assistance provided by the program to child care ministries to assist in compliance with PTQ requirements.

Advisory Committee Reports

The Committee received reports from the Child Care Homes Advisory Committee and the Child Care Centers Advisory Committee concerning the work of the committees throughout the previous year. The Committee also received a report from a task force representing child care ministries.

Minutes containing more detailed information concerning the Committee's 2009 interim work may be found at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/interim/>

V. COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee made the following findings of fact and recommendations:

Child Care and Development Fund

The Committee finds that reports provided by the Bureau of Child Care are helpful to the Committee's performance of its responsibilities.

The Committee recommends that the Bureau of Child Care report to the Committee during the 2010 interim concerning the status of the Child Care and Development Fund program.

Paths to Quality

The Committee finds that the Paths to Quality program is a beneficial program in its initial stage of implementation. The Committee will observe the program during the next twelve months in anticipation of increased voluntary child care provider participation, particularly by child care ministries.

The Committee recommends that the Bureau of Child Care: (1) continue implementation of the Paths to Quality program as a voluntary program; and (2) specifically encourage and facilitate child care ministry participation and movement through the Paths to Quality levels.

Additionally, the Committee recommends that the Bureau of Child Care report to the Committee during the 2010 interim updating the status of the Paths to Quality program.

Sunny Start

The Committee finds that the Sunny Start program is helpful in ensuring that parents of children from birth to five years of age have access to information concerning financial resources and health and safety needs of their children.

The Committee recommends that the State Department of Health: (1) continue to receive support from the Committee for the Sunny Start program; and (2) report to the Committee during the 2010 interim updating the status of the Sunny Start program.

Success by Six

The Committee finds that Success by Six has been helpful in assisting child care providers that are working toward child care quality goals.

The Committee makes no recommendation concerning Success by Six.

Advisory Committee Reports

The Committee finds that the advisory committee reports are helpful to the members in monitoring the status of child care provider concerns and cooperation between child care providers and the Bureau of Child Care in resolving those concerns.

The Committee also finds that the differences in regulatory requirements that apply to different types of child care providers in Indiana requires more intensive study by the Committee.

The Committee recommends that, in addition to consideration of any other pressing issues that arise during the next 12 months, the Committee focus its 2010 interim work on a study of the differences in regulatory requirements that apply to different types of child care providers in Indiana.

Additionally, the Committee finds that the recommendations of the child care ministry working group, including legislation concerning formation of a child care ministry advisory committee and staffing requirements for child care ministries, are important to child care ministries themselves and to ensuring the basic health and safety of children in the care of child care ministries.

The Committee recommends introduction of Preliminary Draft 3175, as amended, (a preliminary draft of proposed legislation concerning a child care ministry advisory committee and specifying requirements with respect to registered child care ministries) during the 2010 session of the Indiana General Assembly.

WITNESS LIST

Melanie Brizzi, Bureau of Child Care, Division of Family Resources, Family and Social Services Administration

Barbara Field, Riviera Children's Center

Judy Ford, Caring Hearth Child Care Ministry

Judith Ganser, M.D., Indiana State Department of Health

Mike Garatoni, Child Care Center Advisory Committee, Division of Family Resources

Vicki Glenn, Kimberly's Playmates

Noel Hanson, Child Care Home Advisory Committee, Division of Family Resources

Kent Hatcher, School and Community Nutrition, Indiana Department of Education

Laura Hormuth, Indiana State Department of Health

Ted Maple, Success by Six, United Way of Central Indiana

Marcie Memmer, Nutrition and Physical Activity Program, Indiana State Department of Health

Barb Newton, First Presbyterian Preschool

Patty Ryan, Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral

Marsha Thompson, Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral

Dianna Wallace, Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children